

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077319
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SIG-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03
NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DODE-00 EUR-12 SP-02 /049 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:GJB
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
-----070250Z 094236 /66

P 070122Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON
ZAIRE

1. PARAS 2 - 6 CONTAIN PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR
APRIL 6 BRIEFING FOR USE ONLY IF ASKED:

2. Q: IS ZAIRE HIRING MERCENARIES TO HELP REPEL
INVADERS FROM ANGOLA?

A: I HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT, BUT HAVE NO
EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE ALLEGATIONS THAT
AMERICANS ARE BEING RECRUITED TO FIGHT IN ZAIRE. AS
YOU KNOW, THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES IN THE UNITED
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STATES IS ILLEGAL.

3. Q: HAS THE ADMINISTRATION MADE A DECISION TO SEND
OR FINANCE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR ZAIRE?

A: WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT UPON WHAT
MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE ZAIRIANS' AID

REQUEST; NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN REACHED.

4. Q: EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT YESTERDAY SAID THAT SOVIET-MADE TANKS HAVE BEEN USED IN THE INVASION TO SHABA. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

A: WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM HIS STATEMENT;

5. Q: WHAT ABOUT THE NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE ANGOLANS AND ZAIRIANS. HAS IT FAILED?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NIGERIANS ARE ACTIVELY CONSULTING WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE NIGERIAN EFFORT AND HOPE IT WILL RESULT IN A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

6. Q: HENRY KISSINGER REPORTEDLY HAS SAID THAT THE ATTACK IN SHABA COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT THE MATERIAL SUPPORT OR ACQUIESCENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION. DOES THE DEPARTMENT AGREE WITH THIS VIEW?

A: I DO NOT WISH TO GO BEYOND MY STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF DIRECT SOVIET OR CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINGENCY PLANNING, PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE077319
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GHAMILTON:GJB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770120-1105
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770477/aaaacpaz.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 702049a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2866285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG
To: KINSHASA LUSAKA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/702049a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009